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April 10, 2000 LB 1021

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are now open for discussion on the Schimek amendment, AM3321, to LB 1021. Open for discussion. There are no...Senator Tyson, you're recognized.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, speaking on this motion, on the Schimek amendment which becomes the bill, if it's felt by this body that we should take the amount that was voted on, in 1976, as a limit for gifts, and cut it in half, there is an easy way to do it. The easy way to do it is to raise the limit to \$143.25, because the purchasing power of \$100, in 1976, 24 years ago, according to the Consumer Price Index of 1998, not 2000, 1998 is \$286.50. There was a wonderful scene, Burl Ives was singing a song, and this was 20 years ago, and a very poignant couplet in that is that they're tearing down buildings that I saw them build. Well, as the buildings age and grow weak, so does the dollar. It is the announced policy of the United States government to depreciate it by monetizing the debt, and as we go along the dollar becomes less and less, becomes a way to steal fixed value, for those who are interested. But the fact of the matter is that all of the time that we have spent on this bill today, depending on how you look at it, is either a waste of time or an insult. Who was being insulted? Every one of you and me. So ask yourself, get a little piece of paper out and write down the figure that it takes for you to sell out the trust of your constituents. How many of you will...anybody do it for a ham sandwich? How about something a little bit more? How about a dinner? Does any of that make any impression on any of you as far as your conviction of how a vote should be cast? It doesn't with me, and I don't think it does with anybody else in here. There are a group of people, inward looking, figure, well, they're public officials, they must be on the take. To hell with those that think that! Little bit of useless knowledge that will be of no value to anyone. Sapere aude, for the Transcribers, s-a-p-e-r-e, second word a-u-d-e. It's the model of Manchester England Grammar School--dare to be wise. I have been voting no on every amendment, as I intend to vote no on this amendment, and as I intend to vote no on this bill. I think it's the wisest thing to do. Now, it may offer someone an opportunity to question your motives. Let them. Let them. Think of this as two things--a waste of our time today, and a comment by the